

Breyfogle (Wm L.)

ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY THE

PRESIDENT

OF THE

American Institute of Homœopathy,

WM. L. BREYFOGLE, M.D.,

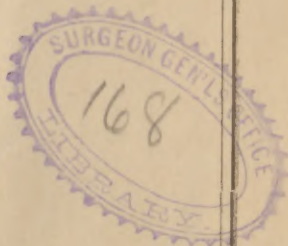
AT ITS

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION HELD AT INDIANAPOLIS,
INDIANA, JUNE 13 to 17, 1882.

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The following resolutions were submitted by the Committee on the President's Address, and, on motion, were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the resume of events, showing the progress of Homœopathy and of liberal ideas in medicine generally during the past year, is an able effort and full of encouragement.

Resolved, That the practical suggestions for the conduct of the affairs of the Institute are timely and worthy of our careful consideration.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Institute be tendered to President Bréyfogle for his clear statement of the principles and policy of the American Institute of Homœopathy.

Resolved, That the General Secretary be instructed to have *five thousand copies* of the address printed in pamphlet form for distribution.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

In entering upon the duties assigned me by your suffrages, I am deeply impressed with the responsibilities of the work before me, and with profound gratitude for the confidence reposed in according to me the highest honor within your gift. Succeeding in this high office the many who have administered its affairs with such marked ability and success, I bespeak your kind forbearance, and liberal aid, in my earnest endeavor to carry out the rules and regulations calculated to enhance the harmony and expedite the business of the session, while I promise to put forth my best efforts to accomplish that end and to receive your good opinion.

With these desires, then, I greet you, and extend a hearty welcome to the Thirty-fifth Annual Session of the American Institute of Homœopathy, the oldest National Medical organization in America.

Before entering upon the more general business of our meeting, it becomes my duty, in accordance with the rules of the Institute, to present you with an Address embracing a brief review of the progress made in the science of medicine during the preceding twelve months. Besides such review, I shall devote the brief time allowed me to the practical discussion of questions of vital and pressing importance to our school.

THE PAST YEAR.

In casting our thoughts back over the time that has elapsed since our meeting at Brighton Beach, we are confronted with an array of facts that at once stamp the year as a memorable one in the history of medicine. It is safe to say that during this time medical doctrines and medical ethics have been more generally discussed, both in and out of the profession, than ever before.

In Europe, the meeting of the two International Medical Conventions, brought forth delegates from all parts of the world to participate in the discussion of scientific questions, and to assist in advancing the practice of medicine. Our medical literature has teemed with the reports of these meetings, and with discussions of the subjects brought forward in them; and in consequence every reading medical man in the world must have felt a revival of the interest within him.

MEDICINE BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

Among the laity, especially in our own country, the character and progress of medicine have also been subjects of earnest discussion.

The various announcements of National and State Boards of Health, the numerous legislative acts in regard to medicine and sanitary measures; and above all, the sad illness, the anxious watchings, with alternate hopes and fears, and at last death of our President, have made the art of healing a familiar one in nearly every household.

Exactly what effect such discussions have had it is difficult to determine. True measure of public opinion is full twelve inches to the foot, and may demand of us what we cannot furnish, an exact science, and the medical profession may have lost in one direction as much as it has gained in another, but we are safe in predicting that medical science, in the end, loses nothing by public discussions.

PUBLIC OPINION BENEFICIAL.

Public opinion may seem at times to deal unjustly, but in the main it is nearly correct, and medical science to-day owes

more of its advancement to this cause than to all the accumulated wisdom of the medical priesthood.

It is to a great extent due to this fact that Homœopathy occupies its present high position. An intelligent public impressed with the fact that it was at times compelled to take medicine, determined to take as little as possible, and seemed ready and anxious to adopt a treatment, which Hahnemann had proclaimed to be successful in curing disease, without the necessity of hazardous measures. The people cared less for the philosophy of Hahnemann's particular method than for practical results, and believing success to be the test of merit, they have continued to encourage it with liberal support and patronage until its influence has been felt throughout the entire civilized world. Its practitioners have not been idle; but grateful for such generous encouragement, they have made every effort to perfect the new system of medicine and to prove themselves worthy.

GENERAL STANDING OF HOMŒOPATHY.

How well they have accomplished their part let its proud position to-day in the United States testify.

Witness its magnificent hospitals and asylums, its numerous and active societies, its eleven successful colleges with crowded lecture rooms, and its thousands of volumes of medical literature. Witness the large appropriations made by State legislatures for supporting its institutions, and the appointment of its professors in State universities. Witness the official recognition given Homœopathy by appointments on National, State and Municipal Boards of Health. Witness the fact that its practitioners are numbered by thousands and its clients by millions among the most cultivated and intelligent of the people, and then say if Homœopathy has progressed?

THE ATTITUDE OF ALLOPATHY.

Public opinion has also done much for the old school. It has forced its practitioners to abandon old ruts and to travel in modern paths; to leave behind, with heroic medication,

the little instrument, with which Dr. Benjamin Rush claimed to have drawn enough blood to float a seventy-four gun man of war.

So great has been this pressure upon traditional medicine that it has utterly demoralized its followers. Without a guiding principle in therapeutics, some have discarded medicine and given themselves to the more definite and fixed methods of surgery; others have become sanitarians; while the major portion, wrangling over conflicting theories, have become divided into the dogmatic and rational, or as sometimes designated, the heroic and expectant schools of medicine. The one claims, by right of inheritance, to be the representative of traditional medicine. Its practice has been well described by Sir Astley Cooper, as "founded on conjecture and improved by murder." The child reflects the image of the parent, and although divested of all its former grandeur it stalks forth in its naked imbecility, and with the lash of bigotry and intolerance would drive out every medical theory which conflicts with the doctrines handed down from their ancient masters.

Its un pitying, relentless malice towards its opponents is nowhere better illustrated than in the obituary notice published in the *Dublin Medical Press*, at the death of that great physician, author and philosopher, Samuel Hahnemann. It says: "It appears that old Hahnemann, the inventor of Homœopathy, is dead, having prolonged his existence by infinitesimal doses of nothing to eighty-eight years, greatly to the consolation and edification of the patrons and patronesses of quacks and quackery."

The only real progress made by the allopathic profession in therapeutics during the last century has been by the rational school. This so-called "chip from the old block" is a modern school, and, while it retains in its features many of the marks of its antique progenitor, still presents many new and promising traits. Its practitioners, observing the successes attending Hahnemann's method of treatment, have gradually grown into the belief that Homœopathy, as a reform in medicine, had accomplished its object and must, of necessity, cease to exist.

Deluded by this idea, they have swept down upon a supposed victim, like certain historical ornithological specimens, only to find a most lively corpse.

The revelation wrought a miracle, and the rational school of medicine, which was to absorb Hahnemann's method of treatment, has become simply a feeble imitator in the eyes of an intelligent public, and a detestable time-server as viewed by the medical dogmatists.

The *London Lancet*, in a recent issue, in an article headed "Quackery within the Profession," says, "Nothing is so much needed just now as the rise in our midst of a strong and uncompromising apostle of sincerity in science—a man of un pitying animosity to humbug in all its forms, who will not hesitate, at any bidding, to denounce wrong-doing and untruthfulness, let who may be the offender. It is time that a spirit of manliness went out in our ranks to chase away the lying spirit of mock courtesy—the faint-hearted and time-serving sentimentality which makes us so ready to look kindly on any pretender and so reluctant to expose any pretense."

And because certain of these rationals have refused longer to wear the iron-clad collar which the American Medical Association fastens on the neck of all physicians who subscribe to their code of ethics, or who would be recognized as "physicians in good standing," or have dared openly and publicly to prescribe remedies in accordance with Hahnemann's method of cure, to use an imitation of the little pellets, to carry their medicines in small pocket cases, and to advocate the use of triturations sold at homœopathic pharmacies, they are bitterly denounced as traitors. Says the *Lancet* in the same article, "we have ourselves to thank for this most adverse 'feeling' and 'influence.' It is this stirring of the viper we have brought in from the cold, where physicians and surgeons of more robust intelligence than those of to-day left it—the viper we have warmed, and fed, and brought back to life, and now it is preparing to rise and sting the hand that caressed it."

OUR PATH OF DUTY.

But, I hear you ask, what has all this to do with the progress

of Homœopathy, and why should quarrels among allopathists concern us?

I am deeply impressed with the idea that it greatly concerns us. While as disinterested spectators, the impressions left from our boyhood days would incline our sympathies with the weaker party in the fight, we cannot be unmindful of the fact that this division in the ranks of our enemy bodes either good or evil to our cause.

It is, indeed, a golden opportunity for medical truth. If we stand firmly by our principles, if we tune our instruments alike, discard mysterious platitudes, and throw wide open the door to investigation, the best of them will, one by one, be forced to enter our ranks, accepting the law of similars, and assisting us in placing the honored name of Hahnemann where it properly belongs in the history of medicine. This is inevitable. Public opinion will not tolerate a base and transparent imitation. But, if on the other hand, we do not stretch forth the hand of liberality while challenging the most searching investigation, if we make no kindly effort to bring them within our fold, they may one day dispute with us the rich inheritance left by Hahnemann, and, perchance, leave us with nothing but the name Homœopathy while they retain the substance.

We should meet their objections in the spirit of frankness and with candid arguments. They accuse us of practicing under an exclusive dogma, and give this as a reason why they cannot join with us. We should teach them that, while we believe the law of similars to be a general law like the law of gravitation, we do not believe it to be an exclusive law in therapeutics, and only universal in its own department.

Rest and food will restore the exhausted energies, chemical agents will overcome the effects of certain poisons, and the violent symptoms of an overloaded stomach may be quickest cured by an emetic, yet all these do not disprove the universality of the law of similars, nor does this law teach us to discard other requisite methods of removing the causes and effects of disease. There are many affections that are absolutely incurable under any system of medicine, and in such we claim that to the true physician the whole line of palliative treatment

is open. We must endeavor to teach, by practical results, that the law of similars furnishes the most effective, as it does the most scientific, medicinal curative method. Demonstrate that the only proper method of determining the value of drugs is by first proving them upon the healthy body, and that the administration of the single remedy is safer and more effective than the traditional compounds. Show that the true physician should never prescribe a remedy unless he knows how it will act, and that the compounds of various drugs of unequal strength and proportions must be exceedingly uncertain as well as unscientific. These and other facts have only to be pressed upon candid medical men in order that they bear good fruit. Occupying our present strong position we can well afford to be liberal.

Opportunities to accomplish all this are not wanting. The right hand of fellowship is already extended to us from the other side. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of London, some months ago, passed a resolution permitting its members to consult with homœopathic physicians, while differing from them in regard to the action and administration of drugs. The Medical Society of the State of New York has also placed itself upon a favorable footing by discarding the code of medical ethics held by the American Medical Association, and adopting one allowing its members to consult with all legally qualified practitioners of medicine. The refusal of the American Medical Association to accept these amendments cannot prevent the liberal and progressive element in the old school from asserting its independence, and even severing its connection from an organization which holds in shackles, forged over thirty years ago, an accumulated mass of narrow-minded bigotry. Governed by ideas that were hammered and moulded into shape in some of the numerous "sky parlor" colleges of traditional medicine, public opinion demands this concession, and we must cordially welcome the situation. While we do not believe that consultations over the therapeutics of a case will often inure to the benefit of the patient, we must subscribe to the language of the new code in that "emergencies may occur in which all restrictions should,

in the judgment of the practitioner, yield to the demands of humanity."

It is not difficult to point out the result. Toleration begets friendship, and in the near future we may expect our Annual Meetings to be attended by the members of other schools of medicine. All restrictions removed, they will eagerly accept the opportunity for interchange and consultations in order to test practically the efficacy of Hahnemann's method of treatment in their more difficult and obstinate cases. It will remain for us constantly to demonstrate the superior efficacy of our method of cure, and who may question our ability to do it?

It may be urged by some that this measure will eventually bring the two schools together and extinguish Homœopathy as a special school. That practitioners of all shades will adopt what is of value in the teachings of Hahnemann and forget distinctive names in professional fraternity. Believing as we do in the stability of the law of similars, and in its sufficiency for our guidance in medicinal therapeutics, we do not fear the result.

If our method of treatment cannot stand the most rigid and searching examination, and if the light of science and accumulated experience proves it to be defective, then, as honest men, we should abandon it. Have no fears, for our method embraces so much that can attract honest seekers after medical truth who have never had a fixed guiding principle, and is in such full accord with the modern developments of science, that it can but commend itself and its faithful followers to general favor.

THE BENEFITS OF HARMONY.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is the position of the medical profession of to-day. It does seem as if the dark cloud which has so long cast its shadow over a great part of the medical field, rendering the pathway of therapeutics a darkened maze, so unlike the well defined paths of the collateral branches of the art, is soon to be lifted so that the sunlight of truth may brighten and perhaps lengthen the life of man.

IT ADVANCES SURGERY.

The more definite and fixed rules of surgery are due to the absence of opposing systems. The common interest taken in this field by the physicians of all schools of medicine has resulted in a degree of advancement, or perfection, that argues strongly for the cause of unity in the profession. Great operations in surgery, which were regarded as impracticable, are to-day performed with comparative ease and remarkable success. It is but a few months ago that the medical world was amazed at the report of several cases of resection of the stomach, and yet Billroth and his assistants have performed the operation some half dozen times, and clearly demonstrated the advisability of the same under certain conditions. Just prior to this report, Czerny gave a detailed statement of these cases in resection of the intestines: in one subject six and one-half feet were removed. The credit of having first performed this difficult and dangerous operation is due, and should be given, to the late Dr. Beebe, of Chicago, a homœopathic physician of great learning and a surgeon of rare ability. For a full report of which case I refer you to the *New York Transactions*, 1869, page 169.

You are aware of the fact that both the spleen and uterus have been successfully removed. A few months ago, Dr. A. C. Post, of New York, enucleated the parotid gland, and Mr. Walter Whitehead, of Manchester, England, lately performed the triple operation of gastrotomy, tracheotomy and excision of the tongue with perfect results. Dr. J. H. McClelland, of Pittsburgh, and others, have extirpated the kidney, and a transatlantic surgeon has taken out the trachea. Enucleation of the ovaries is of frequent occurrence, and the aspiration of the different organs almost a daily practice. To the frequent operation of ovariectomy, lithotomy, colotomy, the tying of large arteries, the amputation of limbs, transfusion of blood, trephining, extirpation of cancer, &c., may be added those of laparotomy and gastrotomy.

In other special departments the advancement has been equally great. The operation for cataract, once so difficult, is now one of the most successful known in surgery, and in dis-

cases of the ear and throat equal proficiency has been made. Verily do the blind see, the deaf hear, the dumb speak, and the lame walk, through the aid of the skillful surgeon.

IT ADVANCES SANITARY SCIENCE.

The united stand taken by the medical profession in sanitary matters has also contributed greatly to the advancement of public health. With firm belief in the truth of the old adage, that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," we together have set to work to erect barriers in the pathway of the ruthless destroyers of our race. The American Public Health Association, with doors wide open to sanitarians of all schools of medicine, has steadily progressed until to-day it is a large body, wielding an immense influence, and numbering among its members the most distinguished names in the medical profession. It affords me great pleasure to note the fact that our own physicians have contributed greatly to this result. At the last meeting, held at Savannah, Ga., through the earnest effort of the efficient chairman of the delegation sent by this body, Dr. M. T. Runnels, of Indianapolis, our school of medicine was well represented. The papers presented by our delegates, and published in the volumes of Transactions, not only reflect honor upon their authors but likewise credit upon the cause they represent. These Transactions, together with the report submitted to Congress by the National Board of Health, embracing in a volume of four hundred and seventy-seven pages, most valuable statistics and general information, are sufficient evidence of the good quality and permanency of the work already accomplished. It is also gratifying to note that the papers and discussions have not been confined exclusively to the "outside sources" of disease. In the report to Congress, the National Board of Health has given considerable space to the discussion of the "deteriorations, adulterations and substitutions of drugs." And at the last meeting of the American Public Health Association, one of the best papers presented had for its title exactly the opposite line of thought, "The Inside Sources of Disease." These subjects have received so little attention from the medical pro-

lusion, and are so imperfectly understood, that we are glad to see sanitarians disposed to grapple with them, and we express the hope that they will be successful in their effort, if not to diminish the number of inside sources of disease, at least to make plain and provide for many of the evils resulting from them.

None but medical men can fully appreciate the importance of this subject. Perhaps none but the "family physician" may divine the cause of those sunken cheeks, that hectic flush, that gradual relaxation from the full vigor of health, nor comprehend the secret which consumes all desires, destroys all pleasures, and finally welcomes death as a long sought relief. Even he dare not state the truth in his burial certificate. Who of us has not seen the dissipated husband, rendered wifeless by a broken heart, stung for the moment by a pang of remorse, drowning his thoughts in the cup that has caused all his suffering, and which now enables him to believe his loss was occasioned by an act of divine Providence?

How little does the brilliant society woman, admired, flattered, and courted by every one, believe that the slight prick of the little instrument, and the injection of a few tiny drops of a solution of morphine, is but welding the chains that will bind her fast, and finally drag her to a premature grave a physical and mental, if not also a moral wreck? If the youth of our country could be instructed fully in the evils resulting from their dissolute habits, suicides would be less frequent, insane asylums less crowded, and the social evil would no longer require special legislation.

These are matters that require careful and judicious handling; but being firmly rooted, we shall expect our sanitary boards to make headway against them slowly, remembering, however, "as the drop of water wears away the stone," so will repeated and constant efforts finally remove the greatest of evils.

HOMEOPATHIC PROGRESS.

But, as our time is limited, I will leave these general sub-

jects and confine my remarks to matters more directly pertaining to Homœopathy. I must first say something of the grand gathering in London, England, during last July, "The International Homœopathic Medical Convention." It would be proper, perhaps, to give a more extended account of that Convention than I shall do, on this occasion: but, as our medical journals have already, so fully, presented it in all its bearings, and as the volume of its Transactions (which through the characteristic energy and ability of its President, Dr. Richard Hughes, was, in less than sixty days after the adjournment of the Convention, placed in the hands of the medical profession in America), has given you a complete report of the papers and discussions, I shall only venture to refer to its principal features. You have learned that the Convention was largely attended and ably conducted, that its doors were thrown open to "qualified medical men and women from all countries," and that it adopted for its standard the broadest liberality of thought and freedom of medical opinion.

HISTORICAL REPORTS.

Aside from the many able and interesting papers read and discussed, reports were received on the condition of Homœopathy in nearly every country, which, I am glad to say, indicated progress in all directions.

The strong opposition brought to bear upon Homœopathy in foreign countries through the machinery of different governments: the restrictions thrown around its practitioners and the absence of special educational facilities, had prevented the rapid development and brilliant achievements which have attended its progress in America. In one or two instances these restrictions have encouraged emigration to such an extent that there is danger of an insufficiency of fresh material to fill the vacancies made by time among the veterans in the service. But, notwithstanding this fact, wherever Homœopathy has been properly represented, it has not failed to win the confidence and respect of the people, and to secure a strong following among the educated and intelligent.

PAPERS READ.

The papers read were of a high order. The Address of the President of the Convention, Dr. Hughes, struck the key-note of true progress in the science of medicine, and its logical conclusions, no less than its charming delivery and eloquent language, could not fail to impress the Convention with the great strength and ability of the writer.

The discussions were marked throughout by that freedom of opinion, considerate courtesy to one another, and general harmony which must always result in developing the greatest amount of good.

PERSONNEL OF THE CONVENTION.

To do justice to the *personnel* of the Convention would require more time and space than belongs to this Address, but I can assure you that it was highly creditable to the profession. Side by side with the distinguished Dudgeon, Drysdale, Pope, Hayward, Black, Blackley, and Dyce Brown, of England; Meyerhoefer, of France; Cigliano, of Italy; von Dittman, of Russia; and a host of others, sat our own Dake, Talbot, Helmuth, Wesselhoft, James, de Gersdorf, Sawyer, McClelland, Owens, Cooper, Shearer, and others of equal prominence.

The presence of several female delegates was also a noteworthy feature, especially as during the session of the International Congress of old school physicians, held in London one month later, they were refused admission as delegates.

SOCIAL FEATURES.

The hospitality extended to the visiting brethren was most cordial and lavish. Societies and individuals alike seemed vying with each other to render attentions that actually made us forget that we were in a foreign country and among strangers. There were pleasures that will live and keep fresh in our hearts while all else grows old and faded.

In many respects the International Homœopathic Congress was a model medical meeting. Through the wonderful ex-

entive ability of its presiding officer, a brief synopsis of each paper was presented, and the discussions thereupon were led by regularly appointed debaters, who had previously read the full text of the papers under discussion, thus avoiding confusion while insuring full criticism. The American Institute would do well to imitate the example, and, indeed, any medical society would find it greatly to its interest to adopt this plan, thereby saving the time usually consumed in reading lengthy papers and affording greater opportunity for thorough discussion.

OUR HOME INTERESTS.

We now turn to the consideration of home affairs, or matters more directly connected with the growth and prosperity of Homœopathy in our own country during the past year. Evidences of progress are not lacking. The rapidly growing literature, the increasing number of hospitals and dispensaries, and the increased attendance at our colleges all attest this.

Of new works on Homœopathy we have the pleasure of recording numerous additions during the last year. Prominent among these I will mention :

Special Pathology and Diagnostics. A new and enlarged edition. By C. F. Raue, M.D.

Lectures, Clinical and Didactic, on Diseases of Women. By R. Ludlam, M.D.

Insanity and its Treatment. By S. Worcester, M.D.

A Treatise on the Decline of Manhood. By A. E. Small, M.D.

Ophthalmic Therapeutics. A new and enlarged edition. By Geo. S. Norton, M.D.

Text Book of Materia Medica. A new and enlarged edition. By A. C. Cowperthwaite, M.D.

A System of Surgery. By E. C. Franklin, M.D.

Diseases of the Ear. By W. H. Winslow, M.D.

The Ophthalmoscope. By C. H. Vilas, M.D. And a

Method of Memorizing the Materia Medica. By A. L. Monroe, M.D.

I desire also especially to refer to a work (of 280 pages) by

Wm. M. Cate, M.D., "The Child of Promise." This little work treats on the rival schools of medicine, and will be found intensely interesting to the physician, and one of the most valuable works in the hands of the non-believer.

Of the progress made in hospital practice, we note the surrender to Homœopathy of the Binghampton Insane Asylum in New York, which, together with the State Homœopathic Asylum, at Middletown, N. Y., gives us ample opportunity and accommodations for the treatment of this distressing malady. A movement was set on foot some months since, which has grown rapidly in favor, to establish a National Homœopathic Hospital at Washington, D. C. A new homœopathic hospital has also been established in Kansas City. A new hospital is in course of erection in Pittsburgh, at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; one-third of this sum having been appropriated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania. The Hahnemann Medical College, at Chicago, has greatly increased its hospital practice, and the Chicago Homœopathic Medical College has secured a portion of the Cook county hospital, one of the largest and finest hospitals in the United States. The homœopathic hospital at Brooklyn, N. Y., has also added sixty beds to the already existing eighty. A number of dispensaries have also sprung up in the larger cities, while those already in existence have greatly increased their means of usefulness.

Our homœopathic medical colleges are improving each year in their facilities for instruction, and in their number of students, and while there may have been, through some improper rivalry in the struggle to graduate large classes, a few candidates turned out that were not quite up to the degree of excellence called for, I am glad to be able to say that the high standard of medical education adopted by our colleges without exception, and the thorough course of instruction given, afford to the student equal, if not superior, facilities compared with those of any other schools. It is important that this high standard should be maintained by every possible means at our command, and that the profession generally should interest itself more in the welfare of the colleges. It is to them that we must look for reinforcements. It is through such institu-

tions that the student must enter into the vast field of medical practice, and it behooves us to watch vigilantly all who pass their portals. That Homeopathy is generally judged by such representatives should warn us to be only the more careful in selecting material for these colleges, and in exacting from them the most thorough examinations.

While it may not, at present, seem practicable, there is certainly no doubt but that it would be infinitely better for Homeopathy if our eleven medical colleges could be condensed into not more than two or three large institutions, and the chairs filled by the best material, selected from all the present faculties. On this plan, the professors might receive salaries sufficient to render them independent of the cares of practice, and to allow more time for extensive research in the branches taught, besides removing the temptation of graduating incompetent students.

INSTITUTE AFFAIRS.

The affairs of the Institute must also be briefly considered. The little plant so tenderly set out just thirty-nine years ago, has become a giant of the forest, its branches extending in every direction, and throwing its protecting influence over a vast area. Time has only improved its vigor, and each year has added new beauties. Storms and vicissitudes have left its strength unimpaired. Here and there may be seen unshapely limbs or evidences of decay, and the pruner's knife may be badly needed, but the grand trunk of this stately king of the forest is as sound as ever. No "dry rot" can ever affect its growth, for the germ of its life is an everlasting principle.

As our national organization has grown in dimensions, so has it extended its influence until it is felt in every part of the world. It is to-day the largest association of homeopathic physicians in the world. This should make us more careful if possible, in our utterances, and the Committee on Publication more particular to examine the material that enters into our Annual Transactions. It should reserve for the action of the Institute the privilege of re-publication of the proceedings

of bureaus as well as of single papers. The right of appeal to the next Annual Session of the Institute should also be allowed to the author of rejected papers. Reports of bureaus should be made through a synopsis of the various papers to be presented, by the chairman of each, so that longer time may be allowed for discussion. The necessity for sectional meetings would then cease to exist and the full object of such an organization be attained, viz.: the gathering together of the gems of thought and experience from many sources for the improvement of the medical art.

The usefulness of the Institute can, by such means, be greatly enhanced. New bureaus can be created, and a more general interest taken in the special departments of medicine.

A BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

The permanent organization of a Bureau of Medical Education could, to some extent, harmonize and govern the requirements of our medical colleges, and, while it might not directly prevent all differences between rival schools, it would do so indirectly by affording an opportunity for the more quarrelsome to settle their differences without disgracing the profession by newspaper discussions and libelous pamphlets.

The worthy chairman of the Committee on Legislation has collated a large number of most interesting facts relating to the legal status of Homœopathy. In his circular he has not only requested information both favorable and unfavorable to our interests, but has invited suggestions as to ways and means by which the American Institute can officially aid in the local and national struggles of our school everywhere, at home or abroad. Such thorough reports must greatly strengthen our organization and enhance our usefulness.

A CONDENSED MATERIA MEDICA.

I would suggest also that the American Institute instruct the Bureau of Materia Medica to revise and condense our pathogenesis, and, as soon as practicable, to furnish to this body a full report of their labors. We can then publish a "Condensed Materia Medica" in a separate volume, at an ad-

ditional cost to the members and others sufficient to reimburse the Institute. Through this bureau a system might be perfected for the more thorough proving of drugs, the necessity for which is growing daily more apparent.

A BUREAU OF PHARMACY.

I would also urge upon you the necessity of separating pharmacy from materia medica, giving it a separate bureau, which shall take upon itself the work of examining into, and reporting to the Institute the value of the drugs and attenuations sold by the various pharmacists, and of suggesting some method by which reliability and uniformity can be secured. I am moved to offer this suggestion, not through any ill feeling toward dealers in homeopathic medicines, nor with a desire to impugn their motives—for, as a class, I believe them to be generally honest and truthful in their dealings—but because science has at last demonstrated, what many of the profession have long believed to be true, that there are influences operating in the preparation of attenuations that are not yet fully understood.

Our distinguished colleague and scientist, Prof. J. Edwards Smith, of Cleveland, Ohio, whose reputation is above reproach, and whose teachings have never been successfully questioned, has, during the past year, laid aside his "microscope," and with delicate instruments and labor that consumed time due to rest and recreation, has succeeded in assaying the different triturations of Aurum met., up to the 30th decimal, and with the most startling results. When Prof. Smith sent me a "button" of pure gold, obtained from assaying the 30th trituration of Aurum, large enough to handle and examine, which resisted boiling in nitric acid: and when I remembered how diligently our distinguished colleague, Dr. Wesselhoft, and others, had been for years searching for this valuable article with the assistance of the microscope, and that the 30th decimal trituration of Aurum, properly prepared, should not contain gold at all visible, I believed that there must have been some mistake in the labeling of this particular preparation. It was then suggested that, as President of the Institute, I should furnish the triturations for examina-

tion. Ordering from nine reputable homœopathic pharmacies preparations of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th and 30th of Aurum, I carefully removed all labels and evidences of their origin, marked the corks by letters and numbers, carefully registering each in my book, and forwarded them to Prof. Smith. The results of these examinations will be given to the Institute at the proper time, and prove conclusively that triturations of gold, as sold above the 7th decimal, are totally unreliable, the 30th and even the 60th yielding the same amount of gold as was found in the 7th. It would seem, from the results of these examinations, that Hahnemann thoroughly understood the subject when he advised a limit to drug attenuations. Other discoveries have also been made. Not only are there many inferior triturations sold to physicians, but in some instances the preparation was found to contain large quantities of matter foreign to the formula of pure sugar of milk. In some triturations the foreign matter was in excess of the original drug. There are other reasons why such a bureau should be organized and some uniform standard adopted. Through its investigation may be discovered a method of reconciling the differences of opinion which have existed among us in regard to drug attenuation and the divisibility of drug matter, and I am sure that every physician, not actuated by prejudice or a desire to trade upon an issue worn threadbare, will cordially welcome the result. Another strong argument in favor of the proposed investigation is contained in the fact that the absence of a uniform standard in the preparation of drug attenuations has afforded the opportunity for the surreptitious introduction of methods that were never dreamed of by Hahnemann, and that should have no place in scientific medicine. Homœopathy, in its struggle for scientific recognition and place, can ill afford to be "handicapped" by bottle washings and other absurd vagaries; nor can we hope to answer satisfactorily the questions propounded by honest enquirers—who are even now knocking at our door for admission—if we are unable to give some scientific reason for the belief that is in us. Shall we not, then, investigate for ourselves rather than allow others to attend to that matter for us? Everything

points to a final resolve on the part of modern Allopathy to enter the clinical arena against Homœopathy. When consultations begin, then will begin scientific investigations of our provings, of pharmacological processes, and also of our preparations. Our pharmacists cannot escape much longer, and the American Institute of Homœopathy will be compelled to make a record on the subject.

As a chief hindrance to the general and candid consideration of the truths of Homœopathy is the absurd doctrine, never taught by Hahnemann—of infinite dilution, we should endeavor to adopt some standard or limit for drug attenuation, and refuse longer to assume any responsibility for triturations and dilutions made in defiance of all reason and to suit the caprices of men who are satisfied only when surrounded by impenetrable clouds of mysticism. There can be no reasonable objection urged against such action on the part of the Institute. When we remember that ninety-nine out of every hundred homœopathic practitioners rely upon triturations and dilutions within the range ending at the tenth centesimal, and that the great clinical conquests of Homœopathy have been made, and nearly all the favorable legislation secured by them, we are astonished that some such action has not been taken long ago.

With these suggestions, then, I will close my Address, only detaining you long enough briefly to call your attention to the Necrological Report, which records the losses sustained by the Institute in the removal by death of several of its members during the past year, and to pay a feeble tribute to the memory of one of our members who, although with us at the last meeting of the Institute, apparently in the full enjoyment of health, has fallen a victim to the enemy which he had for many years averted from others. I allude to the late Dr. J. J. Youlin, of Jersey City, N. J., an ex-President of this Society. Respected not less for his noble qualities of heart than for his great professional worth, he has left us the pleasant recollections of a well rounded and lovable character.

Ladies and gentlemen, thanking you for your kind attention, I now declare the Institute in readiness for the transaction of business.

